

Island Community Maps & Conservation in the Salish Sea Region

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The Islands in the Salish Sea Community Maps reach beyond converted audiences. These artistic community maps and the community mapping process has inspired scientists and communities alike. These innovative and beautiful maps bring attention to the natural and cultural features that need protecting on the Islands. Seventeen island communities on the Canadian portion of the Salish Sea present their most cherished features, while another five regional maps display themes that bring them together: marine, endangered ecosystems, protected areas, energy and transportation, and the economy portray a bioregion fragmented. This four year-old project, its maps, and the resulting spin-offs have served to unite the region together in an effort to address the increasing development and loss of habitat and small community culture that threatens it. The LTABC not only has supported the development of this project, its maps, and the Atlas of the Islands of the Salish Sea to be released this fall, but it also works to protect natural areas through its member land trusts. A registry of Protected Lands and the increasing work of private land conservation provides permanent protection of sites that have significance to species and communities. Linking science with art to knowledge, it is essential that we weave our personal commitments to conservation and our communities together.